Hans, if so, what is the action plan to disinvest this Unit;

(b) whether the employees of Pawan Hans are ready to accept the disinvestment plan of their company; if so the details of their conditions; and

(c) if not, what are their objections?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) A majority of the employees of Pawan Hans are opposed to the disinvestment in the Company. Their main objections are as under:—

(i) The disinvestment is aimed at raising budgetary receipts to meet the fiscal deficit of the Government and is unlikely to reduce the financial dependence of the Company;

(ii) privatisation shall result in reduced in employment;

(iii) profits may be utilised for individual gains.

Aerodrome Directorate of Inspection

631. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Aerodrome Directorate of Inspection is a Flight safety requirement to monitor standards;

(b) though this Directorate was sanctioned in 1993, but it was not formed;

(c) the personnel posted against the vacancies of this Directorate are being misused elsewhere; and

(d) who is responsible for this lapse and what action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Nine posts of technical officers were sanctioned in August 1998 for Aerodromes Standards Directorate (ASD) meant for licensing the aerodromes. Since recruitment rules were required to be framed for these posts in consultation with the Department of Personnel & Training, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Ministry of Law, these could not be filled up. The recruitment rules have since been notified and UPSC has recommended names of suitable candidates of the posts of Assistant Director and Deputy Director for the ASD. Action has already been initiated for appointing them.

Regular Air Service in the N.E. States

632. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to give IA a one time grant of Rs. 250 crores and other concessions to operate a regular air service in the N.E. States; and

(b) if so, what is the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Fare fixed by Air India for Haj Pilgrims

633. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the fare fixed by Air India for Haj Pilgrims for Haj, 1998;

(b) what was the fare fixed by Air India for Haj in 1995, 1996 and 1997?

(c) what are the reasons for Air India to increase the fare by more than 60% during Haj 1997; and

(d) whether fares of other sectors have also gone up by 60% if not, by what percentage?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The fare for Haj 1998 has not been fixed so far.